



Whether it's through your computer, your phone, or your refrigerator, the internet has found a way to integrate itself into almost every facet of our daily lives, bringing with it a wealth of unregulated content that any child with a Wi-Fi connection can access. It can be difficult to know where to turn for positive messages, and who to trust to model the values we want to encourage in the next generation: courage, loyalty, resourcefulness, and a healthy helping of curiosity.



Jeanne Bender and her colorful cast of characters seek to fill that void with her Lindie Lou Adventure Series, a growing collection of chapter books for early readers. Children can follow Lindie Lou and her puppy and people compatriots as she faces her fears flying on a plane, makes friends in a new city, and even travels to an organic farm to learn—and teach—about sustainability and the difficulties facing American farmers today. Focusing on friendship, love, and a few lessons learned the hard way, walking in Lindie Lou's paws both delights and educates children, and the companion website provides additional activities to keep the fun going for the whole family, including a Lindie Lou song and coloring book pages.

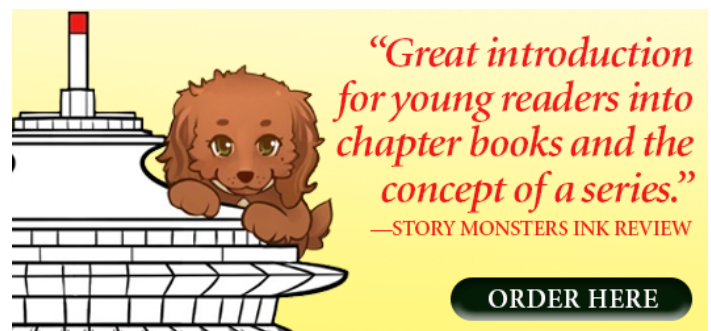
We wanted to learn more about Jeanne's process and mission, as well as to hear what's next for Lindie Lou, and reached out with a few questions. We hope you enjoy her answers!

**You include resources in the back of your books with valuable information about local events, pet friendly hotels, etc. for the locations Lindie Lou visits in each volume. We've never seen that done before and think it's a great idea. What inspired you to include those resources for families?**

One day I was in a book store looking for a new book to read. I found a local travel book about things to do with children in the city of Seattle. I especially enjoyed reading the FUN FACTS and CALENDAR sections. This was the day I decided to include valuable travel information in the back of my books. I hope parents and their children read the Lindie Lou Adventure Series books, then travel to the locations described in the books, and look for places to go and things to do from the resource pages in the back of my books. I also hope the Lindie Lou Adventure Series books encourage readers to write their own stories and share their own uniquely interesting adventures with others.

**In the third volume in the Lindie Lou Adventure Series, Lindie Lou and company visit an organic farm in Iowa and learn a lot about sustainable, responsible farming practices. Is organic farming a passion you share with your characters?**

Absolutely! Organic farming is a healthy way of growing fruits and vegetables. It is an industry I think children should know more about. What better way than in a fun farm adventure story? I really enjoyed writing this book. The character named 'Cousin Ronda' really does exist. She really does own a farm in Iowa. Ronda invited me to visit her farm during harvest time. She took me for a ride on a combine, introduced me to her family and friends, and taught me how farm families feed the world. There is a lot of passion in this book. Included in Lindie Lou's adventures, is the thrill of what it is like to jump off of a hayloft and race through a corn maze. There is also a parade and a harvest party, where participants dress up like field mice, chickens,



a grasshopper, a ladybug, and even Lindie Lou's costume of a bumblebee. My hope is that the importance of where our food comes from and the future of farming is explained and appreciated. The biggest lesson I learned, visiting Cousin Ronda is how much care farmers put into the products they grow and how they protect the safety of our food. What better way to share this than in an adventure story with an adorable puppy named Lindie Lou, her brothers, family, and friends?



**Lindie Lou has a real-life inspiration in your own pup. Do her brothers and sisters also have real-life counterparts?**

Two of Lindie Lou's sisters were inspired by real puppies named Diamond and Ruby. In real life, Diamond is very shy. So, her character is very shy too. In real life, Ruby is a tiny puppy and very curious, just like her counterpart in my books. Because these two puppies were named after jewels, I decided to stay with the theme and give Lindie Lou's two brothers the names Topaz and Jasper. Topaz is a trouble-maker and Jasper is very playful. All of Lindie Lou's brothers and sisters have very different personalities. This includes Lindie Lou who is an adventurous traveling puppy who learns life lessons along the way. So yes, there was a real-life inspiration for three of the five puppies in the Lindie Lou Adventure Series books. And when I wrote the "Lindie Lou Song" I added the verse: *Lindie Lou, you are cool, and your friends think you're a jewel* to coincide with the puppy's names. To listen to the song and hear more of the verses, visit our website at [lindielou.com](http://lindielou.com).

**Your upcoming book features an adventure in New York City with a touch of Christmas magic. We were impressed at the attention to detail in accurately portraying everything from famous landmarks to subway station murals. Do you visit the sites of your stories while writing and walk a mile in Lindie Lou's paws, so to speak of?**

I absolutely walk a mile in Lindie Lou's paws. Even though the Lindie Lou Adventure Series books are a work of fiction and include imaginative details, I make every effort to ensure as much accuracy as possible. The only way I can really feel comfortable writing about a location is if I see it for myself. I actually visited New York City four times during the writing of *Big City Magic*. I struggled with the subtitle of this book which is *Uncover the Secret of The Big Apple* because Lindie Lou learns the Big Apple

Tree holds a secret so amazing, so incredible, so important, it can change her life. I thought long and hard, for several months before I came up with what the secret would be. I wrote half of the book before I figured it out. I even went back to New York City to look for the answer. One day I was walking the streets in downtown New York, asking myself, *what could it possibly be*. When it came to me, I knew instantly that I had found the right answer. The secret *IS* so important, it will change Lindie Lou's life. This confirmed the importance of doing research in the places I write about and made me realize just how magical New York City really is. So, when you read *Big City Magic* and uncover the secret of the Big Apple, I hope it changes your life too.

**Last but not least, where can we expect Lindie Lou and her ever-widening circle of friends to jet off to next?**

There will be twelve books in the Lindie Lou Adventure Series. The next book, which is the fifth book in the series, is titled *On Ice: Exploring the Arctic with a Polar Bear Cub*. It will take place on the east coast of the US, Canada, and Greenland. To prepare for book five, I hiked on top of a glacier in Iceland, trekked through a lava tube under a volcano in Greenland, and visited a place where glaciers calf and humpback whales swim among newly formed icebergs. All amazing adventures I will never forget. But, the most amazing part of my trip was floating on the North Atlantic Ocean, in a Zodiac inflatable boat with a naturalist, looking for polar bears. What a thrill I felt when we saw a polar bear on top a ridge on an island in the Hudson Strait. The bear was as curious about us, as we were about him. Did you know you can tell whether a polar bear is a male or female by its size? A male polar bear is twice the size of a female. We quietly observed this bear for almost an hour. I took amazing pictures and videos which I'll be posting on the [lindielou.com](http://lindielou.com) website under the kid's photo tab. In book five, *On Ice*, there will be a lot of fun-filled adventures when Lindie Lou meets up with a polar bear cub who is as playful as she is. So, come along for the ride! I promise a story, with a message I could only learn, from visiting the arctic and meeting a polar bear in the wild. *On Ice* will be coming out sometime next year.

**The Lindie Lou Adventure Series, Jeanne Bender, Pina Publishing, [lindielou.com](http://lindielou.com)**

